

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 5

For week ending 7 February 1950

Volume III

The International Week

The US decision to produce a hydrogen bomb has led to greatly increased pressures for renewed efforts at international atomic energy control. As the tenth session of ECOSOC opened at Lake Success, the Point Four program appeared likely to be the chief topic.

FINEBEL pushed. The disappointing progress toward OEEC-wide trade liberalization at the recent OEEC Council meeting is leading to a revival of interest in smaller regional schemes, particularly the proposed Franco-Italian-Benelux group (FINEBEL). The French and other continental ERP members, believing that British opposition may prevent much early progress on a larger basis, now seem prepared to go ahead with liberalizing trade and payments between the FINEBEL countries and possibly Western Germany. The difficulty with the present FINEBEL proposals, as with the recent UNISCAN agreement, is that they represent at best only halting steps toward ECA integration goals. The French in particular seem unwilling to lower trade barriers where reduction might impinge on domestic industries, while a large segment of French opinion, led by Monnet, believes that no real unification program is possible without the UK. Moreover, Benelux insistence that Western Germany be included in the FINEBEL plan is matched by French reluctance to include the Germans without the counterbalancing influence of British participation. All in all, failing a great increase in US pressure or a marked change in the French attitude, it seems unlikely that any continental economic bloc now foreseeable will be sufficiently far-reaching to make a major contribution to European viability.

Peace Partisans prepare new drive in Western countries. The Paris-centered World Committee of Peace Partisans, although now preoccupied with the Communist campaign against MDAP shipments, will shortly renew its drive to win popular support in Western countries for Soviet "peace" policy aims. This renewed effort is reflected in (1) the Committee's decision to send an "international delegation" to the US, the USSR, China, the UK, France and Italy in a probable effort to attract wider support

DOCUMENT NO. 5
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NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE: 2 Nov 79

REVIEWER: 0085

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for the concept of a peaceful USSR championing a Big Power "Peace Pact;" (2) plans for national "peace congresses" in the Scandinavian countries during the Spring of 1950; (3) the scheduling of a second US "trade union congress in defense of peace" to be held in Cleveland.

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Seating of Communist China. It is possible though unlikely that the Peoples' Republic of China will be seated during the present session of the UN Economic and Social Council. Seven of eighteen ECOSOC members now recognize the PRC, and Canada and Australia may follow shortly. If all recognizing governments support a motion to unseat the nationalist representative, and the Soviet bloc participates in such a vote, then a single abstention, possibly that of France, might break the ice. It is problematical, however, whether any one will sponsor a mid-session proposal of this kind and if so whether the Soviet bloc would return to vote on the question. Representation of the Chinese Communists on one UN organ would highlight the confusion resulting from the lack of uniform practice among UN bodies and would intensify pressure on the Security Council to bring the Soviet walkout to an end.

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Man bites bear. The Indonesian Government, in replying to a Soviet invitation to establish diplomatic relations, is reported to have made an exchange of envoys dependent upon admission to the UN.

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